

The Employable Musician

You want to be a professional musician, but what do today's professional musicians actually do? How has the life of the musician changed in the last ten or twenty years? How might it change again before you graduate?

At the Royal College of Music, we want to ensure you are fully prepared for the ever-evolving profession which you have chosen. Challenges await you, but if start your preparation early, there's never been a better time to be a musician.

First-rate musical skills are of primary importance but to achieve your goals you need to be truly dynamic, making opportunities for yourself, becoming proactive rather than reactive.

You need determination, passion and great imagination to make a lasting impression with future employers and potential audiences.

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RCM musicians learn about the demands and realities of a fast-changing profession, and are encouraged to respond actively and creatively. In addition to carefully structured programmes of study and performance, there are many opportunities to deepen your knowledge, widen your experience, extend your skills and build networks of contacts – all of which ultimately enhance your employability.

The RCM is a world-leader in career development for musicians and is home of the renowned Woodhouse Professional Development Centre. Here the team is dedicated to helping you unlock your potential and become a distinctive candidate for the many opportunities that lie ahead, advising you on the basics, guiding you through a range of opportunities which mirror the professional world and encouraging you to use your initiative. We emphasise the need for musicians to be confident and versatile communicators, not just on stage but in everything that they do.

The Woodhouse Professional Development Centre offers:

- » extensive opportunities to perform, teach and participate in outreach work
- » advice on preparing effective CVs, covering letters, biographies and other essential publicity materials
- » step-by-step suggestions on planning your own concerts
- » numerous resources and directories, enabling you to find out everything you need to know about the music profession
- » factsheets designed to answer your most frequently asked questions
- » guidance on self-management and self employment including finance
- » seminars, workshops and special events giving you a better view of the professional landscape



Mary Cosgrave HonRCM
Professional Relations
Manager



Hayley Clements
Access Development
Manager



Diana Barlow
Professional Engagements
Coordinator



Katy Hemingway
Education and Outreach
Officer



Frances Hardcastle
Graduate Services
Officer

Professional engagements service

Gaining experience and making contacts while you are still a student is crucial to your development as a professional musician. The Woodhouse Professional Development Centre sources and manages a range of external opportunities that offer practical experience in working as a musician. Engagements include formal and informal concerts in churches, galleries and community centres together with live music for a variety of corporate events and private functions. Inventive programming, immaculate presentation and a highly professional attitude are all essential requirements for musicians undertaking this work, and the team guide and support you through this process offering feedback following each event.

Teaching service

An essential part of many musicians' careers, teaching is widely valued among its exponents as an imaginative and worthwhile way to share your musical passion and expertise with a new generation. The Woodhouse Professional Development Centre runs a popular teaching service which matches members of the public who want to learn with RCM students who are able to teach. Every week we receive requests for private music teachers of all types. If you have the skills, commitment and experience you can be considered for teaching opportunities as they arise.

Life at the RCM

"The Woodhouse Professional Development Centre is one of the College's most useful services. Everyone in the team is really friendly, approachable and professional. There's a wealth of advice and information so it's a great idea to go in and see what's most relevant to you. You'll be surprised just how much is!"

Alisdair Hogarth *accompanist and ensemble coordinator*

Find out more about studying at the RCM, visit www.rcm.ac.uk



RCM Sparks is the Royal College of Music's thriving Education and Outreach Programme. Comprising a wide range of activities, it enables the College to interact with young people at all stages of their musical development, starting at age three. It closely complements the RCM mission to provide professional training at the highest international level and comprehensively prepares students for the diverse roles they will undertake as professionals. RCM students receive special training from professional workshop leaders to help deliver the vibrant, engaging programme, working as part of a team to offer an inspirational learning experience for all.

Recent RCM Sparks activities have included:

- » **Mission Flute and Saxophone**
 - RCM students delivered a tailored instrument-learning programme to pupils from local schools, showcased at Cadogan Hall
- » **Summer Music**
 - a week of activities for over 100 young people and adults
- » **An ongoing partnership with London Sinfonietta**
 - this year's "Laptop Orchestra" project culminated in a performance at the South Bank Centre
- » **Education projects with:**
 - The Voices Foundation
 - English Touring Opera
 - Turtle Key Arts
 - Brent Education Action Zone
 - Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

For more information visit www.rcm.ac.uk/sparks

Job opportunities

Our Graduate Services Officer is committed to ensuring that all jobs and opportunities worth applying for in the music business are featured on our extensive noticeboards and in our popular weekly email jobs bulletin which brings a range of opportunities direct to your inbox, whether you're a current student or a graduate of the RCM.

Professional skills

The Woodhouse Professional Development Centre's team leads units and seminars on the BMus Programme raising many of the key issues concerning professional musicians. Topics include promoting yourself, applying for work, organising effective concerts and planning education projects.

